

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

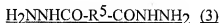
Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) A polyacetal resin composition comprising:

(A) 100 parts by mass of polyacetal resin having a generation amount of formaldehyde of not more than 100 ppm when heated at a temperature of 200°C for 50 minutes under [[the]] nitrogen atmosphere, and

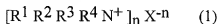
(B) 0.01 to 5 parts by mass of a hydrazide compound, represented by the following formula (3):



wherein R⁵ represents a C₂-C₂₀ hydrocarbon,

wherein the polyacetal resin (A) is a polyacetal copolymer obtained through [[the]] a heat treatment of unstable terminal groups as defined by the following:

the polyacetal copolymer is subjected to heat treatment in a molten state at a temperature in the range of from the melting point of said polyacetal copolymer to 260°C in the presence of at least one quaternary ammonium compound represented by the formula (1) below:



wherein each of R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ independently represents an unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₃₀ alkyl group, a C₆-C₂₀ aryl group, an aralkyl group wherein an unsubstituted

or substituted C₁-C₃₀ alkyl group is substituted with at least one C₆-C₂₀ aryl group, or an alkylaryl group wherein a C₆-C₂₀ aryl group is substituted with at least one unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₃₀ alkyl group, wherein said unsubstituted or substituted alkyl group is linear, branched, or cyclic, and said substituted alkyl group has at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an aldehyde group, a carboxyl group, an amino group, and an amide group, and wherein at least one hydrogen atom of each of said unsubstituted alkyl group, said aryl group, said aralkyl group, and said alkylaryl group is optionally replaced by a halogen atom; n represents an integer of from 1 to 3; and X represents a hydroxyl group, or an acid residue of a C₁-C₂₀ carboxylic acid, a hydroacid excluding a hydrogen halide, an oxoacid, an inorganic thioacid or a C₁-C₂₀ organic thioacid; in an amount of from 0.05 to 50ppm by mass in terms of the amount of the nitrogen ascribed to the quaternary ammonium compound, based on the total mass of the polyacetal copolymer and the quaternary ammonium compound, wherein the amount of the nitrogen is represented by the formula (2) below:

$$P \times 14 / Q \quad (2)$$

wherein P represents the amount (ppm by mass) of the quaternary ammonium compound, based on the total mass of the polyacetal copolymer and the quaternary ammonium compound, 14 is the atomic weight of nitrogen, and Q represents the molecular weight of the quaternary ammonium compound.

3.-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) The polyacetal resin composition according to claim 2, wherein the polyacetal resin having the melting point of 155 to 171°C.

13. (Previously Presented) The polyacetal resin composition according to claim 2, wherein the polyacetal resin is a polyacetal copolymer polymerized using a complex compound of boron trifluoride and has a concentration of residual fluorine of not more than 13 ppm.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The polyacetal resin composition according to claim 2, wherein the hydrazide compound has a melting point of not lower than 160°C.

16. (Previously Presented) The polyacetal resin composition according to claim 2, wherein the hydrazide compound (B) is a sebacic di-hydrazide.

17. (Previously Presented) The polyacetal resin composition according to claim 2, which further comprises, based on 100 parts by mass of polyacetal resin, (C) 0.1 to 10 parts by mass of at least one selected from the group consisting of an antioxidant, a polymer or a compound containing formaldehyde reactive nitrogen, a catching agent of formic acid, a weathering stabilizer, and a mold release agent;

(D) 0 to 60 parts by mass of at least one selected from the group consisting of a reinforcing material, an electrically conductive material, a thermoplastic resin, and a thermoplastic elastomer; and

(E) 0 to 5 parts by mass of a pigment.

18. (Previously presented) The polyacetal resin composition according to claim 2, which, when formed into an article by molding at a temperature of 200°C, has an emission amount of formaldehyde, measured according to VDA275 method, of not more than 1 mg/kg.

19. (Previously presented) The polyacetal resin composition according to claim 2, which, when formed into an article by molding at a temperature of 240°C, has an emission amount of formaldehyde, according to VDA275 method, of not more than 3 mg/kg.

20. (Previously presented) An article obtained by molding of the polyacetal resin composition according to claim 2, wherein an emission amount of formaldehyde, measured according to VDA275 method, is not more than 1 mg/kg.

21. (New) The polyacetal resin composition according to claim 2, wherein the hydrazide compound (B) is at least one selected from the group consisting of sebacic acid dihydrazide, dodecanoic acid dihydrazide, isophthalic acid dihydrazide, and naphthalene 2,6-dicarboxylic acid dihydrazide.

22. (New) The polyacetal resin composition according to claim 2, wherein the polyacetal resin composition comprises, based on 100 parts by mass of the polyacetal resin, 0.03 to 3 parts by mass of the hydrazide compound (B).

23. (New) The polyacetal resin composition according to claim 2, wherein the polyacetal resin composition comprises, based on 100 parts by mass of the polyacetal resin, 0.05 to 1 parts by mass of the hydrazide compound (B).